

Appl. No. 09/595,167
Supplemental Amdt. dated December 10, 2004
Preliminary Amendment

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 16 (cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering a substance to a ~~subcutaneous target site~~ blood vessel, said method comprising:
percutaneously introducing an access tube to an implanted port having a flow passageway with an upstream end, a downstream end, and a valve element in the flow passageway and integrally formed with the port, wherein the access tube is introduced to seat in the passage but does not engage the valve element and wherein the flow passage is connected directly to the blood vessel; and

introducing said substance into the flow passage through the access tube at a pressure sufficient to open the valve element to permit flow through the flow passageway to the ~~target site~~ blood vessel.

18. (Original) A method as in claim 17 further comprising repeatedly accessing the implanted port with said access tube through the same access tract at intervals and over a time period sufficient to cause scar tissue formation over the access tract.

19. (Original) A method as in claim 17 further comprising locating said implanted port by manually aligning the access tube with a line from the skin entry point of an access tract to the aperture on the port.

20. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 17 further comprising locating the port by manually feeling the port to determine the position of the aperture.

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21. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 17, wherein percutaneously introducing further comprises introducing the access tube through a skin layer overlying the implanted port having a thickness in the range from 3 mm to 20 mm.
22. (Original) A method as in claim 17, wherein the access tube comprises a blunt cannula.
23. (Original) A method as in claim 17, wherein the introducing step comprises orienting the access tube generally vertically with respect to the skin surface.
24. (Original) A kit comprising:
a subcutaneously implantable port according to claim 1;
instructions for implanting the port comprising implanting a port in a subcutaneous tissue pocket, wherein an access cannula-receiving aperture of the port is disposed beneath an intact region of skin, and introducing a penetrating element through the intact region of skin into the aperture, wherein the element remains anchored in the aperture for a time sufficient to create an access tract; and
a package adapted to contain the port and the instructions for use.
25. (Previously presented) A kit as in claim 24, further comprising a penetrating element.
26. (Previously presented) A kit as in claim 25, wherein the penetrating element comprises a syringe needle.
27. (Previously presented) An implantable port as in claim 2, wherein the pressure-responsive valve element is integrally formed in the housing insert.